

“The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit”

The Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative is pleased to announce the [“Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children”](#) Indianapolis Conference to be held September 25-27, 2009. Tiziana Filippini and Deanna Margini have been identified as representatives of Reggio Children in Italy that will serve as Keynote Speakers. American author and educator Louise Cadwell has been invited, as well as other educators from the United States, who are experts in educational equity and social justice.

The Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative (Butler University, Lawrence Early Learning Centers, Warren Early Childhood Center and St. Mary’s Child Center) proudly hosts the international exhibit “The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children” at the Indiana State House from July to December 2009. The continuously updated travelling exhibition from Reggio Emilia, Italy has been telling the story of the Reggio educational experience worldwide to thousands of visitors for over 25 years. This beautiful 5000 square foot exhibit will bring an international focus to Indiana and compliment Indiana-Italy partnership initiatives in education and culture.

In 1991, Newsweek magazine published an article identifying the best schools in the world. The Diana School, as a representative of the preschools and infant toddler centers of Reggio Emilia, Italy was named as one of the top ten schools in the world. Since the publication of the Newsweek research, interest in the work of the Italians has spread across the world and early childhood educators have become inspired by the work of the educators in Reggio Emilia. Thousand of educators in the United States have studied in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Nearly two thousand children are served by educators in the Indianapolis Reggio collaborative. They are a very diverse group of young children. Many of the children served live in poverty. Children who live in poverty enter formal schooling unprepared and often one to three years behind. They are unlikely to “catch up” and often “drop out”. The evidence in early childhood research is compelling. The research demonstrates that children involved in high quality early learning experiences, particularly children in poverty, experience significant life long positive outcomes including: higher IQs, achievement levels and graduation rates. In addition, these children are less likely to be enrolled in special education, retained or incarcerated. The results occur only in schools that provide high quality programs.

Support for the exhibit and the September conference is provided by the Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative as well as representatives from the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Family and Social Services, Mayor Ballard’s office, the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Head Start, Day Nursery, Young Audiences, United Way of Central Indiana and the Indianapolis Public Schools.